Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 13459 111137Z ACTION EB-08

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UNCLAS BANGKOK 13459

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: BEXP, TH

SUBJ: TRADE OPPORTUNITY FOR U.S. LEATHER SHOES AND BOOTS

REF: STATE 89279

- 1. EMBASSY HAS MADE INQUIRY INTO OPPORTUNITY FOR U.S. MADE LEATHER SHOES AND BOOTS. MARKET IN THAILAND FOR IMPORTED DRESS SHOES AND BOOTS IS VERY SMALL. IMPORT DUTY OF 60 100 PER CENT AD VALOREM DISCOURAGES LOCAL IMPORTERS. ACTIVE AND SOPHISTICATED CUSTOM MADE SHOES AND LEATHER INDUSTRY IN THAILAND ALSO PROVIDES STRONG COMPETITION FOR IMPORTERS.
- 2. SOME MILITARY FOOTWEAR HAS BEEN PROCURED FROM U.S. IN THE PAST. HOWEVER, MILITARY AND POLICE FORCES ARE REQUIRED BY THAI LAW TO PROCURE DIRECTLY FROM THE TANNING ORGANIZATION, MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, WHICH IS A STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISE.
- 3. FIRMS INTERESTED IN SELLING MILITARY FOOTWEAR TO MILITARY, PARAMILITARY, OR POLICE FORCES IN THAILAND SHOULD ADDRESS PROMOTIONAL INFORMATION TO:

SUPREME COMMAND HEADQUARTERS (FORWARD) LOGISTIC PLANS AND OPERATION SANAM SUAPAH BANGKOK, THAILAND

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QUARTER MASTER DIVISION POLICE DEPARTMENT SRETSIRI ROAD BANGKOK, THAILAND

4. EMBASSY WILL REPORT PROMPTLY ON ANY FORTHCOMING GOVERNMENT TENDERS FOR FOOTWEAR. PRESENTLY, HOWEVER, THERE ARE NO RTG

PLANS FOR THE PURCHASE OF NON-THAI FOOTWEAR. BECAUSE OF THE SMALL NUMBER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES IN THAILAND, ONLY A LIMITED MARKET EXISTS FOR INDUSTRIAL FOOTWEAR.
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